

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for printing an indicium comprising:

selecting a print resolution characteristic for at least a portion of the indicium;

transforming a source image of the at least a portion of the indicium based on the selected print resolution characteristic; and

printing the indicium on a substrate, the at least a portion of the indicium being printed based on the transformed source image with the selected print resolution, the indicium including at least one symbol, the at least one symbol including resolution data that is indicative of the selected print resolution characteristic.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein selecting a print resolution characteristic includes selecting a horizontal resolution factor and a vertical resolution factor.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein printing an indicium includes printing the resolution data is in encrypted form.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the at least one symbol is part of a barcode.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein further comprising:

performing a random process;

.....wherein selecting a the print resolution characteristic is randomly selected performed based at least in part on a result of the random process.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the print resolution characteristic is selected based on substrate is an envelope predetermined data.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for verifying authenticity of an indicium comprising:

examining the indicium to determine a first print resolution characteristic used to print at least a portion of the indicium;

extracting at least one symbol included in the indicium, the at least one symbol specifying an actual-second print resolution characteristic that indicates a resolution that should have been used to print the at least a portion of the indicium; and

comparing the first-determined print resolution characteristic with the actual-second print resolution characteristic to determine whether the determinedfirst print resolution characteristic matches the actual-second print resolution characteristic;

wherein if the determined print resolution characteristic matches the actual print resolution characteristic, the indicium is verified as authentic.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein extracting at least one symbol includes reading a barcode that is part of the indicia.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the barcode is a two-dimensional barcode.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the indicium is a postage indicium.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the at least one symbol is encrypted, the method further comprising:

decrypting the at least one symbol.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of printing a postage indicium using a postage meter, the method comprising:

selecting a print resolution characteristic for at least a portion of the postage indicium based on predetermined data;

transforming a source image of the at least a portion of the postage indicium based on the selected print resolution characteristic; and

printing the postage indicium, the at least a portion of the postage indicium being printed based on the transformed source image, with the selected print resolution, the postage indicium including data that indicates the selected print resolution characteristic.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the predetermined data includes at least one of a calendar date, a current day of the week, a state or province in which the postage meter is located, a postal zone in which the postage meter is located, a current value of a register of the postage meter, and a random process.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1924, wherein the resolution data is in the form of represented by a barcode that is part of the postage indicia.

23. (Currently Amended) A postage meter comprising:

means for selecting a print resolution characteristic for at least a portion of a postage indicium based on at least one of: (a) a calendar date, (b) a current day of the week, (c) a state or province in which the postage meter is located, (d) a postal zone in which the postage meter is located, (e) a current value of a register of the postage meter, and (f) a random process;

means for transforming a source image of the at least a portion of the postage indicium based on the selected print resolution characteristic; and

print means, responsive to the means for transforming selecting, for printing the postage indicium, the at least a portion of the postage indicium being printed based on the transformed source image with the selected print resolution, the postage indicium including data that indicates the selected print resolution characteristic.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The postage meter according to claim 23, wherein the resolution-data is in the form of ~~represented by~~ a barcode that is part of the postage indicium.

26. (New) The postage meter according to claim 23, wherein the print resolution characteristic includes a horizontal resolution factor and a vertical resolution factor.

27. (New) The postage meter according to claim 23, wherein the print resolution characteristic is selected based on at least one of: (a) a calendar date, (b) a current day of the week, (c) a state or province in which the postage meter is located, (d) a postal zone in which the postage meter is located, (e) a current value of a register of the postage meter, and (f) a random process.